

Message Text

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21

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INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EIND, ETEL, EEC

SUBJECT: COMPUTERS - UNIDATE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

REFS: A. PARIS 7082

B. EC BRUSSELS 1748

1. AS A FOOTNOTE TO REFTEL A'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN A FRENCH GOVERNMENT DECISION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE MERGER BETWEEN THE COMPAGNIE INTERNATIONALE POUR L'INFORMATIQUE (CII) AND HONEYWELL-BULL, THE MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT CHRISTOPHERE LAYTON, THE EC COMMISSION'S DIRECTOR FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND THE MOVING FORCE BEHIND THE EC COMPUTER POLICY, IS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MERGER. SPEAKING BEFORE A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 29, LAYTON SAID THE EC COMMISSION, (BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD IT WAS PROBABLY LAYTON SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF), MADE KNOWN ITS CONCERN WITH THE POSSIBLE MERGER TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

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LAYTON'S UNHAPPINESS UNDOUBTEDLY STEMS FROM THE

POSSIBILITY THAT A MERGER BETWEEN HONEYWELL-BULL AND CII COULD BREAK UP UNIDATA BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION OF CII'S GERMAN AND DUTCH PARTNERS. UNIDATA IS THE KEYSTONE OF THE EC'S EVOLVING COMPUTER POLICY BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS THE POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING THE "EUROPEAN" BASED TRANSNATIONAL COMPUTER COMPANY THAT COULD COMPETE WITH IBM. (THE EXISTENCE OF UNIDATA ALSO LENDS ITSELF TO POLICIES OF STANDARIZATION, JOINT RESEARCH SELECTIVE PROCUREMENT AND OTHER TECHNIQUES FOR SUPPORTING "EUROPEAN" COMPANIES.)

2. AT THE SAME MEETING LAYTON SAID THAT HE WELCOMES AN EVENTUAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN A US COMPUTER FIRM AND UNIDATA, ONCE UNIDATA IS MORE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK A US PARTNERSHIP WITH JUST ONE OF THE UNIDATA MEMBERS WAS DESIRABLE. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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